

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Fischer (U.S. Patent No. 6,762,852) in view of Takise (U.S. Patent No. 5,353,222). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites both “a comparator that compares all of the image sizes in the print job with the paper sizes available in each printer to determine which single printer is most compatible with the entire print job” and “a selector that selects a printer to which the print job is sent based on the comparison results obtained by the comparator.” Applicants submit that neither reference teaches or suggests, either alone or in combination, these features.

The Examiner relies on Fischer as teaching a memory that stores paper sizes available in each printer connected to the network such that paper size information is associated to each printer. The Examiner relies on Takise as teaching the usage of a printer capable of printing multiple sizes. However, the combination of these teachings do not arrive at the claimed invention.

Fischer teaches that a computer presents a user with an interface in which the user can select from a superset of print features (col. 4, lines 45-47). The user then selects print features from a list of selectable features, including number of copies, single or double sided, size of paper, color or black and white, etc. (col. 4, lines 48-55). Modifying Fischer in view of Takise, according to the Examiner, would merely add the feature of printing multiple sizes to the list of features disclosed by Fischer. Assuming such a modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, the resulting device does not correspond to the claimed device. There are several key differences.

Fischer teaches that the computer suggests printers to the user based on features, speed or location (col. 5, lines 7-9). According to Fischer, the user selects which printer to use based on those suggestions. Thus, Fischer could not be modified to provide a selector which makes this selection without deviating from the spirit of Fischer.

Further, even if Fischer's device gives the option of considering a printer that is capable of printing multiple sizes, the combination of Fischer and Takise does not teach a comparator that determines which single printer is most compatible with the entire print job. In Fischer, that is left to the user. Thus, Fischer would not need to be modified to provide a comparator that compares all of the image sizes in the print job with the paper sizes available in each printer to determine which single printer is most compatible with the entire print job, because that is the job of the user.

For at least the reasons set forth above, the combination of Fischer and Takise fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

Claims 2-6 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Claim 8 recites "comparing all of the paper sizes required by the print job to the obtained paper sizes available in each printer to determine which single printer is most compatible with the entire print job."

The Examiner states that Fischer discloses a method of printing a document using the best available printer using criteria such as size, but not multiple size information. The Examiner believes that Takise teaches usage of printers capable of printing multiple sizes. Applicants submit that the Examiner has mischaracterized what is being taught by Fischer.

Fischer discloses a method which presents a user with an interface with which the user can select a printer based on certain desirable print features. This may not be the best available printer based on the criteria of paper size, or even multiple paper size, as Fischer discloses other factors which may play a part in the selection of the printer.

As stated above in connection with claim 1, even if one of these available features in Fischer's method is a printer which has the capability of printing multiple sizes, neither of these references teaches comparing all of the paper sizes required by the print job to the obtained paper sizes available in each printer to determine which single printer is most compatible with the entire print job. The Examiner is taking too big of a leap from including a printer capable of printing

multiple paper sizes in the list of user selectable features, to comparing all of the paper sizes required by the print job to the obtained paper sizes available in each printer to determine which single printer is most compatible with the entire print job.

Claim 10 is allowable at least for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

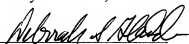
Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Fischer (U.S. Patent No. 6,762,852) in view of Takise (U.S. Patent No. 5,353,222) and further in view of Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,909). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 is allowable at least due to its dependency and further in view of Shima's failure to overcome the deficiencies of Fischer and Takise.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **325772026900**.

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